Appl. No. 09/944,171

It is respectfully submitted that it should be no undue burden on the Examiner to consider all claims in the single application. Moreover, because at least generic claim 1 should be in condition for allowance, this Election of Species Requirement should also be overcome and withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, favorable reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

In the event there are any outstanding matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

P.O. Box 747

Falls Church, VA 22040-0747

(703) 205-8000

(Rev. 04/19/2000)

KM/asc

0941-0316P